



VOLUME I, ISSUE 2

UP TO SPEED

WWW.CONNECTINGALABAMA.GOV

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SAVE THE DATES

- **REGION 1 Kickoff**
Oct. 8 ~ Phil Campbell
- **REGION 5 Kickoff**
Oct. 14 ~ Troy
- **REGION 7 Kickoff**
Oct. 14 ~ Dothan
- **REGION 6 Kickoff**
Oct. 26 ~ Thomasville
- **REGION 4 Kickoff**
Nov. 2 ~ Delta
- **REGION 12 Kickoff**
Nov. 3 ~ Guntersville
- **REGION 11 Kickoff**
Nov. 4 ~ Decatur
- **REGION 3 Kickoff**
Nov. 9 ~ Graysville
- **REGION 10 Kickoff**
Nov. 16 ~ Opelika
- **REGION 2 Kickoff**
Nov. 17 ~ Tuscaloosa
- **REGION 8 Kickoff**
Nov. 18 ~ TBA

CONNECTINGALABAMA REGIONAL KICKOFFS UNDERWAY

The **ConnectingALABAMA** staff is pleased to announce that dates for the Regional Kickoffs have been scheduled! We look forward to laying this important groundwork in Alabama in an effort to advance both the access and adoption of broadband in rural parts of the State.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the appropriate date(s) so that you can be a part of **this exciting time in our State's history!** *(Meetings will last 1.5 to 2 hours, but staff will be available for questions afterward. Dates/locations subject to change. Please contact Regional Coordinator if you do not know if you are on the email list for invitations.)*

Regional Coordinator	Event	Day	Address
Chelese Beck 334-353-3376	Region 1 Kickoff Northwest-Shoals Community College	Fri - 10/08/10 1:00 PM	2080 College Road Phil Campbell
Josh Phillips 334-353-3375	Region 5 Kickoff Pike County Center for Econ. Development	Thurs - 10/14/10 10:00 AM	100 Industrial Blvd. Troy
Josh Phillips 334-353-3375	Region 7 Kickoff Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce	Thurs - 10/14/10 2:30 PM	102 Jamestown Blvd. Dothan
Jennifer Felder 334-353-3374	Region 6 Kickoff Thomasville Civic Center	Tues - 10/26/10 1:00 PM	559 West Front St. N. Thomasville
Jennifer Felder 334-353-3374	Region 4 Kickoff Cheaha State Park Lodge	Tues - 11/02/10 1:00 PM	2141 Bunker Loop Delta
Jennifer Felder 334-353-3374	Region 12 Kickoff Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge	Wed - 11/03/10 1:00 PM	7966 AL Hwy. 227 Guntersville
Horace Lamar 334-229-8493	Region 11 Kickoff Turner-Surles Resource Center	Thurs - 11/04/10 10:00 AM	702 Sycamore Street NW Decatur
Chelese Beck 334-353-3376	Region 3 Kickoff Graysville Community Center	Tues - 11/09/10 10:00 AM	171 2nd Avenue S.W. Graysville
Horace Lamar 334-229-8493	Region 10 Kickoff East Alabama Medical Center	Tues - 11/16/10 10:00 AM	2027 Pepperell Parkway Opelika
Josh Phillips 334-353-3375	Region 2 Kickoff Tuscaloosa County Extension Office	Wed - 11/17/10 1:30 PM	2513 7th St. Tuscaloosa
Chelese Beck 334-353-3376	Region 8 Kickoff TBA	Tues - 11/18/10 10:00 AM	Location to be Announced Time subject to change

WHAT IS THE KICKOFF & WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

By attending the Kickoff meeting, you are giving a voice to your community. During the meeting, the **ConnectingALABAMA** staff will introduce the concept of the Alabama Broadband Initiative, demonstrate the interactive tools featured on the Web site, and explain the importance of developing Investment Plans. While that term might indicate a financial investment, it is so much more.

Through the leadership of the Regional Coordinators, we are asking those in the community to invest their time, ideas and efforts into making access to and adoption of broadband in rural Alabama an active plan, not just one that sits on the shelf collecting dust ... not a plan that was once a great thought but never had any driving force.

(Continued on page 2)



... WHY I SHOULD ATTEND? (continued)

The **ConnectingALABAMA** team is that driving force that offers the support, incentive and tools to complete the priorities established in each region. We are not here to dictate to a Region what its needs are. By partnering with each Region, we will discover how we can best help with broadband access and adoption, while seeking any needed funding.

We ask that you utilize the tools offered and provide valuable feedback through the Web site, so that our vendor can collect this necessary data. By doing this, you enable our staff to best identify the priorities in your Region. In the section below are the links to many of the interactive Web site tools, which you can use now. Please pass this newsletter or at least these links on to your neighbors, friends and fellow residents, so they, too, can become a part of this initiative.

Please mark your calendars ... we want to see you at a meeting!



HOW CAN I OR MY COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?

- Explore www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/default.aspx to become familiar with **Alabama's Broadband Initiative**—steps taken, current projects and future goals
- Watch the videos* online specifically targeted to important sectors of your community and provide vital feedback: www.connectingalabama.gov/videos
- Map locations and provide feedback with data supplied by service providers: www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/maps.aspx
- Become informed about Broadband and how it can become available and be beneficial to businesses and residents: www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/docs/faq.pdf
- Test current Internet speed at: www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/speedtest.aspx
- Keep us informed if only dial-up access is available: www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/noaccess.aspx
- Attend the Kickoff and Planning Meetings currently being scheduled in your Region!
- Forward this information to colleagues, family and friends so they can also become involved!

* Please contact your Regional Coordinator for a link or CD of the videos designed for those with dial-up service.

EXTERNAL HIGH-TECH ARTICLES

Army issues iPhones:

<http://swampland.blogs.time.com/2010/09/23/hey-soldier-youre-in-the-iphone-army-now/>

Trillion Project: Grant Award (additional info below):

<http://www.northescambia.com/?p=27367>

Apple TV:

http://blog.al.com/scenesource/2010/09/apple_tv_will_you_buy_it.html

AT&T Alabama Investment:

http://blog.al.com/businessnews/2010/09/att_says_alabama_investment_ap.html

FCC Opens Unused TV Signals for Broadband:

<http://www.al.com/newsflash/index.ssf/story/fcc-opens-up-unused-tv-signals-for/5c97bccb90c64875916798dca82a7527>

Chattanooga has America's fastest Internet::

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100926/BUSINESS01/9260324/Chattanooga-s-speedy-Internet-may-give-it-jobs-edge>

Auburn receives
\$4.6 Mil to bring
broadband
services to rural
Alabama

[Read Story Here](#)

<http://www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=13248283>

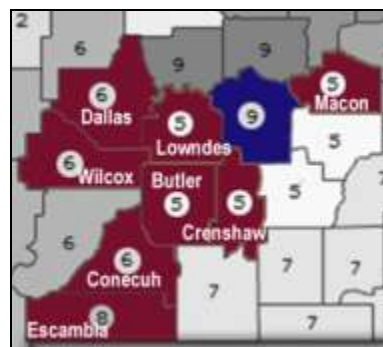
FEATURED BROADBAND GRANT AWARDS ...

TRILLION COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

South Central Alabama Broadband Commission (SCABC)

Many community-serving organizations in a substantial portion of the rural, eight-county region in central Alabama targeted by Trillion Communications lack the necessary level of Internet service to thrive and compete in the digital economy. Trillion has formed a public-private partnership with A2D and the South Central Alabama Broadband Commission -- a recently

formed consortium of local governments, colleges and universities, medical providers, nonprofit institutions, and the Poarch Creek Tribe -- to bring high-capacity broadband capabilities to Butler, Conecuh, Crenshaw, Dallas, Escambia, Lowndes, Macon, and Wilcox Counties.



Included Counties shown in red with Region numbers. Montgomery is blue, which will be trunk line.

TROY CABLE INITIATIVE UNDERWAY

Southeast Alabama SmartBand - Rural Broadband for Economic Development and Energy Management

Troy Cablevision, a competitive local exchange carrier in Alabama, proposes to deploy a fiber-optic network to provide a critical new broadband route between four southeast Alabama counties—Pike, Crenshaw, Coffee, and Dale—and key Internet points of presence, or “on-ramps” to the global Internet, in Montgomery and Dothan. Community-serving organizations in all six areas typically lack Internet access at the speeds necessary to

provide key services like Next Generation 911, distance learning, and telemedicine. Troy Cablevision has also formed a public-private partnership with the South Alabama Electric Cooperative to enable advanced “smartgrid” energy management services for 17,000 electricity consumers in Crenshaw, Pike, and Coffee Counties, significantly improving energy efficiency in the region. The network plans to support economic growth by

providing redundant rings, including two backhaul routes to Atlanta, enabling the high-capacity, reliable broadband capabilities required to attract major businesses to the region.

Included Counties shown in green with Region numbers. Montgomery and Houston are blue, which will connect loop.



Other BTOP Grant Awards will be featured in upcoming newsletters! [Provided by www.BroadbandUSA.gov](http://www.BroadbandUSA.gov)

Find us on the Web!



CONNECTINGALABAMA.GOV

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Get Involved!

We need YOUR feedback!

This success of this initiative is directly influenced by consumers utilizing the tools provided through **ConnectingALABAMA!**

Please visit the Web site and view the [VIDEOS](#) to learn more about how broadband access directly affects your community.

Then provide [FEEDBACK](#) so we can collect the necessary data to bring Alabama *Up to Speed!*



bringing Alabama up to speed!



BROADBAND AWARENESS LINKS

Advantages of Broadband: http://www.broadband.gov/broadband_advantages.html

Broadband In Rural Areas: http://www.broadband.gov/rural_areas.html

Getting Broadband: http://www.broadband.gov/getting_broadband.html

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ConnectingALABAMA

Jessica Dent	Jessica.Dent@adeca.alabama.gov	334-353-5682
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Horace Lamar	hblamar@linkamericaalliance.com	334-229-8493
Chelese Beck	Chelese.Beck@adeca.alabama.gov	334-353-3376
Jennifer Felder	Jennifer.Felder@adeca.alabama.gov	334-353-3374
Josh Phillips	Josh.Phillips@adeca.alabama.gov	334-353-3375

CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR UPDATED SERVICE PROVIDER MAPS ... COMING SOON!